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Non-governmental organizations

Report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on its 2009 regular session

(New York, 19-28 January and 2 February 2009)

Summary

At its 2009 regular session, held from 19 to 28 January and on 2 February 2009, the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations had before it 153 applications for consultative status, including applications deferred from its 1999 through 2008 sessions. Of those applications, the Committee recommended 64 for consultative status, deferred 82 for further consideration at its resumed session, suspended consideration of the application of one non-governmental organization, took note that two non-governmental organizations had withdrawn their applications, and closed without prejudice consideration of the applications of four non-governmental organizations. It did not recommend one non-governmental organization, deferred from previous sessions. The Committee also had before it four requests for reclassification of consultative status; it recommended three requests and deferred one. In addition, it had before it 95 quadrennial reports, of which it took note of 94; it deferred consideration of one quadrennial report. The Committee heard 14 representatives of non-governmental organizations.

The present report contains four draft decisions on matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council.

By draft decision I, the Council would:

(a) Grant consultative status to 64 non-governmental organizations;

(b) Reclassify the consultative status of three non-governmental organizations from the roster to special consultative status;

(c) Note that the Committee took note of the quadrennial reports of 94 non-governmental organizations for the reporting period 2004-2007;

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(d) Note that the Committee decided to close without prejudice consideration of the applications of four non-governmental organizations;

(e) Note that the Committee decided to take note of the withdrawal of the applications of two non-governmental organizations.

By draft decision II, the Council would decide to propose the suspension of consultative status of non-governmental organizations that had failed to submit their quadrennial reports for two or more consecutive periods by 1 May 2009.

By draft decision III, the Council would decide to suspend the consultative status of the non-governmental organization Arab Commission for Human Rights for one year and would request the organization to submit a list of its members and associates by 1 April 2010, prior to considering reinstatement of its consultative status.

By draft decision IV, the Council would decide not to grant consultative status to the non-governmental organization Associação Brasileira de Gays, Lésbicas e Transgêneros.

By draft decision V, the Council would take note of the present report.

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I. Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

Draft decisions for adoption by the Council

1. The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decisions:

Draft decision 1
Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification received from non-governmental organizations

The Economic and Social Council decides:

(a) To grant consultative status to the following 64 non-governmental organizations:

Special consultative status

Academy for Educational Development

African Citizens Development Foundation

African Wildlife Foundation

All-China Environment Federation

Ambassadors for Children

American Society of the Italian Legions of Merit

Asia-Pacific Human Rights Information Center

Association malienne d'initiatives et d'actions pour le développement;

Association for Women's Career Development in Hungary

Associazione Casa Famiglia Rosetta

Bar Association for International Governmental Organizations

Campaign for Innocent Victims in Conflict

Carmelite NGO

Católicas por el Derecho A Decidir

Centro Regional de Derechos Humanos y Justicia de Género

Coalition nationale de Guinée pour les droits et la citoyenneté des femmes

Colombia Unida por el Respeto al Adulto Mayor

Corporate Accountability International

DARE America

Doha International Institute for Family Studies and Development

Ensemble allons dans la paix

Environment Action Association

Fairleigh Dickinson University

Federation of Trade Unions of Ukraine

Fondazione Opera Campana dei Caduti

Foundation for Preventing Youth Violence

Friends of Africa International

Fundación Red Deporte y Cooperación

Gherush92: Committee for Human Rights

Girls Learn International

Global Business Coalition on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

Global Helping to Advance Women and Children

Human Rights Education Associates

International Association of Medical Colleges

International Center for Innovations in Civic Participation

International Network of Alternative Financial Institutions

IZZA Peace Foundation

Justice for Girls Outreach Society

Open City International Foundation

Organisation pour l'environnement et le Développement durable

Reach Out to Asia

Refugee Council of Australia

Servitas Cameroon

Safe Water Africa Community Initiative

Synergie développement et partenariat international

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Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey

Verein Südwind Entwicklungspolitik

Vida y Familia de Guadalajara

Viet Nam Peace and Development Foundation

Women and Memory Forum

Women for Women International

Women's Bar Association of the State of New York

Women's Education and Culture Foundation

World Family of Radio Maria

World Lung Foundation

World Political Forum

Roster

Association école de la cause freudienne

Danish 92 Group

International Foundation for Dharma Nature Time

International Game Fish Association

Fundación Mi Casa

Observatoire international des prisons — section française

Share the World's Resources

(b) To reclassify the following three non-governmental organizations from the Roster to special consultative status:

Nour Foundation

International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics

International Movement against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism

(c) To note that the Committee took note of the quadrennial reports of the following 94 non-governmental organizations for the reporting period 2004-2007:

Academic Council on the United Nations System

Action Canada for Population and Development

African Canadian Legal Clinic

Aland Islands Peace Institute

Al-Haq

All India Shah Behram Baug Society for Scientific and

Educational Research

Alliance for Arab Women

American Civil Liberties Union

Antonio Restrepo Barco Foundation

Arab Centre for the Independence of the Judiciary and the Legal Profession

Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development

Asian Women in Cooperative Development Forum

Assemblée parlementaire de la francophonie

Association Francois-Xavier Bagnoud

Association of Families and Women in Rural Areas

Bischöfliches Hilfswerk Misereor e.V.

Bochasanwasi Shri Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha

Catholic Institute for International Relations

Center for Justice and International Law

Center for Victims of Torture

Centre for Human Rights and Peace Advocacy

Centre for Social Research

Centro de Estudios Europeos

Chabad: International Jewish Educational and Cultural Network

Comité de Apoyo a los Trabajadores Agricolas

Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility

Cooperative Housing Foundation

Cooperazione e Sviluppo

Cooperazione Internazionale

Corporation of Opportunity and Jointly Action

Cross-Cultural Solutions

Development Promotion Group

Droit à l'energie SOS futur

Egyptian AIDS Society

Endeavour Forum

Family Action Foundation

Federación de Asociaciones de Defensa y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos

Femmes solidaires

Focus on the Family (Canada)

Foundation for the Social Promotion of Culture

Friends Society in Social Service

Fundación Cultural Baur

Global Foundation for Democracy and Development

Global Policy Forum

Good Neighbours International

Gorakhpur Environmental Action Group

Gran Fraternidad Universal

Help Handicapped International

Hong Kong Federation of Women

Humane Society of the United States

Indigenous Peoples Survival Foundation

Institute for Interreligious Dialogue

International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists

International Association of Penal Law

International Cooperation for Development and Solidarity

International Criminal Defense Attorneys Association

International Federation of Hard of Hearing People

International Movement of Apostolate in the Independent Social Milieus

International NGO Forum on Indonesian Development

International Police Association

International Presentation Association of the Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

International Real Estate Federation

International Rescue Committee

International Union for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade

IUS PRIMI VIRI International Association

Japanese Organization for International Cooperation in Family Planning

Jeunesse horizon

Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice

Kenya Alliance for the Advancement of Children

Lebanese Welfare Association for the Handicapped

Match International Centre

Médecins du monde (international)

Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights

Mother's Union

Myochikai (Arigatou Foundation)

NGO Health Committee

One World Trust

Partnership for Indigenous Peoples Environment

Peaceways: Young General Assembly

Reach the Children

Red de Educación Popular entre Mujeres

Shinji Shumeikai

Society of Catholic Medical Missionaries

Sulabh International

Turkish Foundation for Combating Soil Erosion, for Reforestation and the Protection of Natural Habitats

VIVAT International

War Veterans Committee

Women's Human Rights International Association

Won-Buddhism Women's Association

World Association of Industrial and Technological Research Organizations

World Conference of Religions for Peace

World Human Dimension

World Youth Alliance

World Youth Foundation

(d) To note that the Committee decided to close without prejudice consideration of the request for consultative status made by the following four non-governmental organizations:

Canadian Lawyers for International Human Rights

International Centre for Peace Studies

Social Alert

Women's Business Development Center

(e) To note that the Committee decided to take note of the withdrawal by the following two non-governmental organizations of their applications for consultative status:

Africa Action

National Democratic Institute for International Affairs

Draft decision II
Outstanding quadrennial reports

The Economic and Social Council takes note of the decision of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations to submit, at its resumed session, to the Council a list of non-governmental organizations, which have failed to submit their quadrennial reports for two or more consecutive periods, for suspension of their consultative status, after having confirmed that the Secretariat has sent final reminders to those organizations with outstanding reports and has requested each to submit a report covering the preceding four-year period by 1 May 2009, and that the permanent missions of the Member States in which the headquarters of the non-governmental organizations concerned are based have been notified of the final reminders, which clearly indicate the consequent recommendations the Committee shall make to the Council should those non-governmental organizations fail to meet the deadline.

Draft decision III
Arab Commission for Human Rights

The Economic and Social Council decides to suspend the consultative status of the Arab Commission for Human Rights for one year, and requests the non-governmental organization to submit a list of its members and associates by 1 April 2010, prior to consideration of the reinstatement of its status.

Draft decision IV
Associação Brasileira de Gays, Lésbicas e Transgêneros

The Economic and Social Council decides not to grant consultative status to the non-governmental organization Associação Brasileira de Gays, Lésbicas e Transgêneros.

Draft decision V
Report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on its 2009 regular session

The Economic and Social Council decides to takes note of the report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on its 2009 regular session.

II. Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification received from non-governmental organizations

2. The Committee considered agenda item 3 at its 1st through 17th meetings, held from 19 to 28 January and on 2 February. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Memorandum by the Secretary-General containing new applications for consultative status received from non-governmental organizations (E/C.2/2009/R.2 and Add.1-22);

(b) Compilation of applications received from non-governmental organizations for consultative status deferred from previous sessions of the Committee held in 1999 through 2008 (E/C.2/2009/CRP.1);

(c) Memorandum by the Secretary-General containing requests for reclassification (E/C.2/2009/R.3);

(d) Requests for reclassification deferred from previous sessions (E/C.2/2009/CRP.6).

A. Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification deferred from previous sessions of the Committee

3. The Committee considered agenda item 3 (a) at its 6th, 8th, 10th, 13th, 16th, and 17th meetings, held on 21 to 23 and 27 and 28 January, and on 2 February 2009. For its consideration of the sub-item, the Committee had before it applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification deferred from previous sessions of the Committee, contained in document E/C.2/2009/CRP.1.

Applications recommended

4. The Committee recommended that the Council grant consultative status to eight organizations whose applications had been deferred from previous sessions (see chap. I, draft decision I, subpara. (a)):

Ambassadors for Children

Association malienne d'initiatives et d'action pour le développement

Environment Action Association

Federation of Trade Unions of Ukraine

Human Rights Education Associates

International Foundation for Dharma Nature Time

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Applications deferred

5. The Committee deferred its consideration of the applications of the following 38 non-governmental organizations owing to insufficient time for their consideration and pending the receipt of responses to questions posed to some of the organizations by the Committee during its 2009 regular session:

Agape International Spiritual Center

Ambedkar Centre for Justice and Peace

Asian-Eurasian Human Rights Forum

Assyrian Academic Society

Better Life Programme for the African Rural Woman

Coordination internationale pour la décennie

Democracy Coalition Project

Drug Policy Alliance

Dynamic Christian World Mission Foundation

European Renewable Energy Council

Forest Products Association of Canada

Genève pour les droits de l'homme: formation internationale

Hope Medical Enterprises

Human Rights House Foundation

International Association of Women Judges

International Center for Transitional Justice

International Dalit Solidarity Network

International Federation of Liberal Youth

International Gas Union

International Human Rights Observer

International Reading Association

International Sustainable Energy Organization

Kashmiri American Council

Kosmos Associates

LESTIME: communauté lesbienne de Genève

Mahabodhi International Meditation Centre

Marijuana Policy Project Foundation

National Association of Home Builders

Neda Institute for Scientific — Political Research

PeaceJam Foundation

People's Life Center

Presse embleme campagne

Saferworld

Spirituality for Kids

Students for Sensible Drug Policy

Sub-Priorato del Piemonte dell'Ordine di San Fortunato

Universitas 21

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Applications closed without prejudice

6. At its 17th meeting, on 2 February 2009, the Committee decided to close without prejudice consideration of the applications of four non-governmental organizations that had not responded to the Committee's questions despite three reminders having been sent to them by the Secretariat (see chap. I, draft decision I, subpara. (d)):

Canadian Lawyers for International Human Rights

International Centre for Peace Studies

Social Alert

Women's Business Development Center

7. The representative of India pointed out that the non-governmental organization International Centre for Peace Studies had not responded to the questions posed to it during the 2008 resumed session of the Committee and that it was not fair that the application was being closed despite receipt of the last response from the organization less than eight months earlier. While agreeing with the consensus of the Committee, he reiterated that the process of closing applications should not be linked to three reminders alone but also to the time since receipt of the last response

from the organization. It was decided that further discussion on the issue would be held in the course of the informal inter-sessional meetings of the working group regarding agreement on a procedure for the future.

Applications withdrawn

8. At its 2nd meeting, on 19 January, the Committee took note of the request of two non-governmental organizations to withdraw their applications for consultative status (see chap. I, draft decision I, subpara. (e)).

Application not recommended

9. At its 14th to 16th meetings, on 26 and 27 January 2009, the Committee considered the application of the non-governmental organization Associação Brasileira de Gays, Lésbicas e Transgêneros.

10. At the 15th and 16th meetings, on 28 January, the representative of Romania proposed a vote on the question of whether or not to grant status to the organization without further delay. The delegations of Colombia, Israel, Peru, Romania and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland argued that the organization had clearly proved that it had met the criteria set out in Council resolution 1996/31, and that the ongoing requests for written replies were just another way of denying consultative status to an organization concerned with gay and lesbian rights, even though, in their opinion, the organization in question had already provided satisfactory answers, both orally and in writing, to all possible questions and allegations, including to those regarding paedophilia. The representative of the United Kingdom stated that no credible reason could therefore be presented for refusing the organization consultative status, except that of straightforward discrimination.

11. The representatives of Qatar, Egypt and Pakistan underlined that the additional questions posed to the organization merited answers, arguing that the Committee should not depart from its norms in this regard, or be hasty in taking decisions about any organization with the slightest shadow of a doubt regarding the implication of any of its members or associates in paedophilia.

12. The observer for Brazil reaffirmed his country's support for the application for consultative status of the Associação Brasileira de Gays, Lésbicas e Transgêneros and stressed the organization's important role in advocacy and capacity-building in human rights in Brazil and in the implementation of national programmes to combat HIV/AIDS. The observer stressed that Brazilian authorities considered that the activities of the organization could in no way be interpreted as conniving in paedophilic practices or other forms of sexual exploitation of children and teenagers. In Brazil, such practices would violate Brazilian law and were subject to criminal prosecution. Brazil believed that the organization had sufficiently answered all questions of the Committee, both in writing and orally, to prove its merits for obtaining consultative status.

13. Following a procedural debate, the representative of Egypt, on behalf of a number of delegations, proposed an adjournment of the debate on the application, under rule 50 of the rules of procedure of the Council. The representatives of Pakistan and Qatar spoke in favour of the motion. The representatives of the United Kingdom and Peru spoke against the motion.

14. The Committee rejected the motion made by a roll-call vote of 7 in favour to 9 against, with 2 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

China, Egypt, Guinea, Pakistan, Qatar, Russian Federation, Sudan.

Against:

Angola, Burundi, Colombia, Dominica, Israel, Peru, Romania, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining:

India, Turkey.

15. Subsequently, on the proposal made by the representative of Romania the Committee proceeded to vote on the recommendation to grant consultative status to the organization.

Explanation of vote before the vote

16. The representatives of Burundi and Egypt stated that they could not agree with the objectives of an organization that promoted a certain lifestyle. The representative of Egypt added that there had been some very serious questions posed to the organization that should not be left unanswered, and that the Committee should be totally clear that there was not the slightest shadow of a doubt about the implication of any of the organization's members or associates in paedophilia before the Committee could proceed to take action on the application. The representatives of the United Kingdom and the United States stated that there was no reason why the application could not be approved since the organization had met all the criteria set out in Council resolution 1996/31.

17. By a roll-call vote of 6 in favour to 8 against, with 4 abstentions, the Committee decided to recommend not to grant consultative status to the organization. The voting was as follows:

In favour

Colombia, Israel, Peru, Romania, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Against:

Burundi, China, Egypt, Guinea, Pakistan, Qatar, Russian Federation, Sudan.

Abstaining:

Angola, Dominica, India, Turkey.

Explanation of vote after the vote

18. The representative of Israel said that his delegation supported the application of the organization for consultative status and that there was no reason not to approve the application, in the light of the contribution of the organization to the work of the Council and the United Nations according to the spirit of resolution 1996/31.

General statements after the vote

19. The representative of the United Kingdom stated that the Committee had not adequately fulfilled its task of reviewing applications for consultative status of

non-governmental organizations in accordance with Council resolution 1996/31. The observer for the Czech Republic, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union, stated that the Committee had acted in a discriminatory manner (with regard to the organization), in terms of article 26 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The observer for Brazil regretted that the Committee had failed to evaluate the merits of the organization on the basis of the requirements set out in resolution 1996/31.

Requests for reclassification

20. At its 11th meeting, on 26 January, the Committee considered two deferred requests for reclassification of consultative status, contained in document E/C.2/2009/CRP.6. It decided to recommend reclassification of the status of one of the organizations, from the Roster to special consultative status (see chap. I, draft decision I, subpara. (b)), and to defer, for further consideration, the reclassification of the following organization from special to general consultative status:

Femmes afrique solidarité.

B. New applications for consultative status and new requests for reclassification

21. The Committee considered agenda item 3 (b) at its 1st through 5th and its 11th, 12th, and 17th meetings, from 19 to 21 January, on 26 January and on 2 February. It had before it new applications for consultative status, contained in documents E/C.2/2009/R.2 and Add.1-22 and E/C.2/2009/R.3. The Committee considered a total of 100 new applications for consultative status.

New applications recommended

22. Of the 100 new applications received, the Committee recommended that consultative status with the Council be granted to 56 organizations that had submitted new applications (see chap. I, draft decision I, subpara. (a)).

23. At its 8th and 9th meetings, on 22 and 23 January, the Committee considered the application of Fairleigh Dickinson University. A debate was held on whether the applicant, as an institution of higher learning, met the criteria set out in resolution 1996/31. A statement was made by a representative of the organization, and written answers to questions posed to the organization were also before the Committee. The representative of Egypt welcomed the evolving relationship between the United Nations and non-governmental organizations and recognized the need to consider reviewing the consultative arrangements, as and when necessary, to facilitate, in the most effective manner possible, the contributions of non-governmental organizations to the work of the United Nations, as envisaged in paragraph 17 of resolution 1996/31. He stated that his delegation would join the consensus to grant status to Fairleigh Dickinson University, on the understanding that the same opportunity would be equally available in the future, based on the merits of each case, to similar institutions from all regions, particularly from developing countries, which were often sponsored by national Governments, while maintaining their non-profit nature. The representatives of Cuba and Guinea made statements in support of the position. The representative of the United States thanked all the members of the Committee for their faithful review of the application and agreed

that all applications should be reviewed on a case-by-case basis, as in the past, and as guided by resolution 1996/31.

New applications deferred

24. Owing to time constraints, the Committee was not able to review responses received to all the questions posed by the Committee. The Committee decided to defer its consideration of the applications of the following 44 organizations to its 2009 resumed session:

Actions solidaires de soutien aux organisations et d'appui aux libertés

Afro Centre for Development Peace and Justice

All India Christian Council

Anandilal Ganesh Podar Society

Asia Center for Human Rights

Asian Farmers Association for Sustainable Rural Development

Association des Badinga du Congo

Associazione Amici dei Bambini

Benin Rural Assistance

Centre des droits des gens

Centre Internacional Escarre per a les Minories Ètniques i les Nacions

Centre national d'information sur les droits des femmes et des familles

Centres d'accueil de l'espoir

Confederation of Organisations in Road Transport Enforcement

Dalit Freedom Network

Ecocosm Dynamics

Environmental Rights Action (Nigeria)

Erevna International Peace Center

Ethiopian Human Rights Council

European Foundation for Democracy

FATIMA Women's Network

Fédération européenne des centres de recherche et d'information sur le sectarisme

Femmes autochtones du Québec

Free World Foundation

IBON Foundation

Institute of Hazrat Mohammad

Institute of Road Traffic Education

International Institute for the Development of Citizenship

Jananeethi

Lesbenorganisation Schweiz

Maasai Aid Association

Magnificat Environment Association

Missions 3G-Gauri

Muslim Aid Australia

New World Hope Organization

Peacebuilders

Pew Charitable Trusts

Regards de femmes

Smile of a Child

Swami Vivekanand Samaj Seva Samsthe

United Network of Young Peacebuilders

Verein zur Forderung der Volkerverstandigung

World Igbo Congress

Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council

25. At its 7th meeting, on 22 January, and 13th and 14th meetings, on 27 January, the Committee considered the application of the Ethiopian Human Rights Council. The Committee was informed by the observer for Ethiopia that the organization had not re-registered in accordance with recent national legislation and hence did not at the current time enjoy the legal status that would allow the organization to operate. At its 17th meeting, on 2 February, the Committee decided to suspend its consideration of the application of the organization, pending confirmation at the 2009 resumed session that its legal status had been rectified.

Requests for reclassification

26. At its 11th meeting, on 26 January, the Committee considered two new requests for reclassification of consultative status, contained in document E/C.2/2009/R.3. It decided to recommend reclassification of status of the two organizations, from the Roster to special consultative status: (see chap. I, draft decision I, subpara. (b)).

III. Quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council

A. Deferred quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council

27. At its 8th meeting, on 22 January, the Committee had before it a memorandum by the Secretary-General containing a compilation of quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council on their activities during the period from 1994 to 2006, which had been deferred from previous sessions of the Committee (E/C.2/2009/CRP.2). Owing to time constraints, the Committee did not review the following quadrennial reports deferred from previous sessions:

Armenian Assembly of America (2003-2006)

Centrist Democratic International (2002-2005)

Christian Democratic International (1994-1997)

Freedom House (2003-2006)

Heritage Foundation (2003-2006)

Human Rights Internet (2003-2006)

International Network of Liberal Women (2003-2006)

International Press Institute (2001-2004)

Ligue internationale contre le racisme et l'antisémitisme (2003-2006)

National Council of Women of Thailand (2000-2003)

Nonviolent Radical Party, Transnational and Transparty (formerly Transnational Radical Party) (2003-2006)

Pax Christi International (2003-2006)

Ukrainian World Congress (2003-2006)

B. Review of quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council

28. The Committee considered agenda item 4 (b) at its 8th meeting, on 22 January. It had before it a note by the Secretary-General containing 95 new quadrennial reports (E/C.2/2009/2 and Add.1-18). The Committee took note of the quadrennial reports of 94 organizations (see chap. I, draft decision I, subpara. (c)) and decided to defer consideration of the quadrennial report of the following organization, pending receipt of its response to questions posed by the Committee:

CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation

IV. Strengthening of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs

29. At its 14th meeting, on 27 January, the Committee was briefed by a representative of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs on three web-based projects dealing with information management. The Section was the sole office responsible for accrediting non-governmental organizations for consultative status with the Council at United Nations meetings. A centralized accreditation process had helped to streamline civil society participation at all official meetings and enhance the monitoring of non-governmental organization activities. In addition, it had provided more accurate statistics to the entire department on civil society involvement in the work of the United Nations.

30. The paperless committee system, a knowledge management system for digital record archiving, had increased the efficiency of the work carried out by the Secretariat. The system had clearly achieved the dual objective of providing higher quality services to Member States and generating substantial savings to the Secretariat. The system, initially launched in 2004, had been completely redeveloped during 2008, with many new features introduced.

31. The non-governmental organization response system, launched during the 2008 resumed session of the Committee, was an add-on system to the paperless committee system and aimed at improving communication between the Secretariat and non-governmental organizations applying for consultative status. Non-governmental organizations whose applications for consultative status or quadrennial reports were being considered by the Committee could log into the system and view all questions posed to them. They could also respond to requests through the system and view, in the system, press releases mentioning their organization.

32. The United Nations-Department of Economic and Social Affairs event management system, an online tool to coordinate and manage information relating to events and meetings organized by the Department, had also been launched in 2008. The system provided each Division within the Department the option to set up calendars on their websites with a unique style and design, thus allowing divisions to preserve visual identity while promoting their own agenda. The system also handled pre-registration and participation of non-governmental organizations attending intergovernmental and expert group meetings organized by the Department.

33. The past 10 years of the Committee had been marked by a heavy workload and unprecedented accomplishments and innovations, as reflected in the improved working methods of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section and of the Committee itself. As the numbers indicated, during the period from 1998 to 2008, the Committee had held 870 meetings, accredited 2,200 non-governmental organizations and reviewed 1,200 quadrennial reports.

34. In order to facilitate and enhance the consultative relationship of the Council with a steadily expanding, increasingly active and influential non-governmental organization sector, the resources of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section had been a matter of concern to the Committee, given the ever-increasing volume of work. The focus continued to be on the ability of the Section to process the growing

number of applications each year, actively support partnerships, facilitate participation of non-governmental organizations in the work of the Council and its subsidiary committees and engage in outreach and other activities. For example, through partnerships with the International Association of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions, an intergovernmental organization with observer status in the Council, and the Institute of Political Science of the University of Paris in France, the United Nations had been involved in exploring new modalities to achieve the Millennium Development Goals in several countries. The Non-Governmental Organizations Section had been instrumental in forging several key partnerships in that regard, such as with the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, the Global Compact, the Department of Public Information, the World Federation United Nations Associations, the Non-governmental Liaison Service and the United Nations Development Programme Special Unit for South-South Cooperation.

35. Additionally, the Non-Governmental Organization Liaison Office in Geneva had helped to establish a close working relationship with the Commission on Human Rights, before the establishment of the Human Rights Council. That relationship had facilitated the dissemination of information on proactive measures taken by the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations to ensure that non-governmental organizations were aware of the existing regulations regarding their participation in intergovernmental meetings.

Non-Governmental Organizations Section: posts and staffing

36. At its 14th meeting, on 27 January, several members of the Committee noted with concern that the provisions of Council resolution 2008/5 had not been met. In the resolution (para. 1), the Council:

> *Regrets* the weak capacity of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure the full utilization of the resources allocated to it as well as the filling of all vacant posts and to report on proposals to further strengthen the capacity of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section within the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011 and the maintenance of the institutional memory of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section, thereby making full use of lessons learned and best practices within the Section so as to enable it to carry out its responsibilities efficiently and effectively.

37. Some delegations also noted the ongoing restructuring of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section, highlighting the need for the observance of the principle of equitable geographical distribution of posts within the Section, in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 61/244. They emphasized that according to Council resolution 1996/31 (paras. 5 and 6) the Committee should ensure, to the extent possible, participation of non-governmental organizations from all regions, particularly from developing countries. They argued that it would be befitting to apply that principle similarly to the staffing of the Section supporting the work of the Committee, particularly at the highest professional level.

V. Review of the methods of work of the Committee: implementation of Council resolution 1996/31, including the process of accreditation of representatives of non-governmental organizations, and Council decision 1995/304

A. Consideration of issues on the agenda of the informal working group

38. At its 11th meeting, on 26 January, the facilitator of the informal working group of the Committee, Ramis Şen (Turkey), reported on the work of the working group, which dealt with the following issues:

1. Outstanding quadrennial reports

39. In accordance with Council resolution 2008/4, the informal working group had considered the status of non-governmental organizations that had outstanding quadrennial reports for two or more consecutive periods. Despite assiduous follow-up by the Non-Governmental Organizations Section, including the most recent letter dated 12 November 2008 reminding the organizations in question of their obligation to submit those reports, many of the non-governmental organizations had nevertheless failed to respond. Of the 160 non-governmental organizations with outstanding reports, 40 reports had been received so far, with 120 reports still outstanding. The informal working group had prepared a draft decision for consideration by the Committee. Upon its introduction, the Committee agreed to submit the draft decision to the Council (see chap. I, draft decision II).

2. Ways to ensure that non-governmental organizations being considered for consultative status or being reviewed for any matter are not involved in any international criminal activity, including terrorism, pursuant to Council resolution 1996/31

40. The informal working group had considered the review of applications for any involvement by the organizations concerned in criminal and other activities, including terrorism, when seeking consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. Although it was generally agreed that the review of applications should include a careful examination of the organization's activities as an intrinsic aspect of the eligibility criteria, there were nevertheless two divergent viewpoints within the working group on how to deal with the process: one approach included cross-checking against the existing list of terrorist organizations prepared by the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism as part of a precautionary review process; the other included using both the Security Council Committee list and national lists of barred, sanctioned and terrorist groups in reviewing all applications.

41. The position held by the delegation of the United States was that security concerns should be an intrinsic aspect of the application review process since it would neither behoove the United Nations to provide easy access to suspect organizations to its premises nor was it sound policy to accredit such organizations to participate in its deliberations. The precautionary measure would not be an exclusive layer of protection but part of a two-step review process. As such, the use

of the existing Security Council list could facilitate the review process by providing easy access to the necessary information, instead of developing a parallel process.

42. Concerns were raised about the use of the term "terrorist organization", particularly by the delegation of Cuba, whose stated position was that the Security Council list was neither comprehensive nor representative of all Member State lists. As such, the issue was subject to interpretation since national lists were compiled by Governments based on their own criteria and might differ significantly from the Security Council list. However, if all lists were given equal consideration and equal weight in reviewing applications, then that would constitute the basis for initiating a real and comprehensive discussion. Some delegations suggested submitting national lists for consideration by the Committee and reviewing applicant organizations on a case-by-case basis.

43. Concern was also voiced by some delegations about the Security Council list itself, which had suffered from a number of problems, including lack of transparency in the modalities used for determining sanctions. Further concerns were voiced regarding the capacity of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section and the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations to add yet another layer to the review process, given the volume of applications received each year. Some were of the view that the Committee should beware not to overstep its existing mandate by the Council, and highlighted the need to respect the prerogatives of principal organs and the institutional balance between them. The working group agreed that deliberations on the topic should continue, and in this regard the Cuban delegation suggested holding discussions on how to put an end to the deliberations, taking into account the long-lasting consideration of the referred topic and the opposite and polarized points of views on the issue.

3. Status on measures taken to increase the number of non-governmental organizations from developing countries seeking consultative status

44. The working group noted that of the number of applications submitted for review at the 2009 regular session, 60 per cent were from developed countries and 40 per cent from developing countries. Although the ratio was still greater for non-governmental organizations from developing countries, it was noted that the gap between the two was slowly closing. The working group focused on how to accord priority to non-governmental organizations from developing countries in the application process to redress the imbalance. Numerous suggestions were made by delegations to restructure the review process so that applications from non-governmental organizations based in developing countries could be expedited and given priority in the review process.

45. In the working group, the delegation of Egypt suggested that the order of non-governmental organizations for consideration by the Committee be revised for future sessions to include non-governmental organizations from developing countries for consideration first, followed by those from developed countries. Although reordering the list for the 2009 regular session had not been feasible due to time constraints, the working group had agreed that starting with the resumed session in May 2009, the review process should be sensitized to address that particular concern and allow greater room for expediting consideration of applications from developing countries. In principle, the suggestion was welcomed by most delegations in the working group. However, it was noted by the Secretariat

that redressing the imbalance would depend on receiving an equal or greater number of eligible applications from developing countries, which would potentially provide opportunity for reaching at least 50-50 parity, and eventually reverse the ratio in favour of non-governmental organizations from developing countries. It was also noted by the working group that the time accorded for consideration of applications by the Committee was limited to a week, which restricted the number of total applications that could be reviewed. Some delegations felt that a two-week period could be considered in order to accommodate higher demand and clear out the backlog of applications.

46. An additional issue raised in the working group concerned the restrictions on the number of pages that could be submitted for translation for the Committee sessions, which in turn, influenced the number of applications that could be presented to the Committee at each session. It was suggested that the matter be taken up by the Committee with a view to increasing the current page limitation, if required.

47. The Committee welcomed the findings of the working group on these matters and took note of the summary of its work.

B. Other related matters

Non-governmental organizations requesting a change of name

48. At its 17th meeting, on 2 February 2009, the Committee took note of the change of name requested by the following organizations:

(a) European Forum for Victim Services (special; 1995) to Victim Support Europe;

(b) Good People World Family (special; 2007) to Good People International;

(c) Intermediate Technology Development Group (roster; 1987) to Practical Action;

(d) International Association of Gerontology (roster; 1978) to International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics;

(e) Inuit Circumpolar Conference (special; 1983) to Inuit Circumpolar Council;

(f) Kenya Women's Political Caucus (special; 2007) to Caucus for Women's Leadership;

(g) Landmine Survivors Network (special; 2005) to Survivors Corporation;

(h) Planned Parenthood Federation of Korea (roster; 2004) to Planned Population Federation of Korea;

(i) Stakeholder Forum for Our Common Future (roster; 1996) to Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future;

(j) World Circle of the Consensus (roster; 2000) to World Circle of the Consensus: Self-sustaining People, Organizations and Communities;

(k) World Leisure and Recreation Association (special; 1990) to World Leisure Organization.

Recommendations for improving the working methods of the Secretariat

49. At its 3rd to 6th meetings, on 20 and 21 January, consideration of applications from non-governmental organizations active at the national level prompted debate about the interpretation of paragraph 8 of Council resolution 1996/31, given that permanent missions of the countries concerned had been consulted by the Secretariat at a very late stage before the beginning of the session. After extensive deliberations, it was agreed that, given the different capacities of Member States, and to ensure the fulfilment of the obligation of the Committee to consult with the host countries of the national non-governmental organizations applying for consultative status, letters on the matter should be sent by the Secretariat to the respective permanent missions at least 60 days prior to each session. If the host country concerned had any comments, it might wish to convey them to the Committee. If no reply was received from the concerned host countries within the 60-day period, the Committee would then proceed according to the provisions contained in Council resolution 1996/31. This practice should replace the current method of informing the missions only after compiling the total list of applicants and the meeting of the informal working group, which limited the ability of missions to respond, if they wished to, within a reasonable time frame.

VI. Consideration of special reports and complaints by Member States

50. At its 1st meeting, on 19 January, the Committee heard a complaint by the observer for Algeria concerning an organization with special consultative status with the Council, the Arab Commission for Human Rights, which had allowed an individual to replace its originally designated representative at the eighth session of the Human Rights Council held in June 2008 in Geneva, without prior notification (see annex II). Furthermore, according to the complaint, the concerned individual had represented the organization despite having been convicted in absentia by an Algerian court on criminal charges of association with a well-known terrorist organization and had an arrest request issued by INTERPOL. He had even used the opportunity to address the Human Rights Council on behalf of another non-accredited organization. Upon consideration of the complaint, the Committee requested the secretariat of the Human Rights Council and the United Nations Office in Geneva to investigate the matter and report on it, and requested the non-governmental organization to provide an explanation.

51. At its 9th and 10th meetings, on 23 January, the Committee considered the responses it had received. It was agreed to allow more time for consideration of an appropriate response to the matter.

52. At its 12th meeting, on 26 January, the Committee held a debate on the matter, with a majority of the delegations supporting the complaint. The delegations supporting the complaint underlined that there was a ruling by a court of a Member State of the United Nations and an international arrest warrant for the individual, who had been allowed by the non-governmental organization to speak on its behalf at a United Nations meeting. Most of the delegations were satisfied by the information provided by the delegation of Algeria, and were of the view that the non-governmental organization concerned had abused its consultative status and violated paragraph 57 of Council resolution 1996/31.

53. The observer for Switzerland confirmed that the concerned individual had obtained the status of refugee in Switzerland in 2000. It was agreed that delegations requiring more information would request it bilaterally from Algeria.

54. At its 15th meeting, on 28 January, the representative of the United States called for a recorded vote on the recommendation to suspend the status of the Arab Commission for Human Rights for a period of one year and to request the organization to submit a list of its members and associates by 1 April 2010, prior to consideration of the reinstatement of its status. He stated that his delegation did not have enough information to make an informed decision one way or the other and was forced to call for a vote because his delegation had not been allowed the time it needed to gather the necessary information. Additionally, he expressed concern that the Algerian delegation had not complied with the requests of his delegation to provide more information on the matter. Finally, the United States delegate expressed concerns about due process, since his delegation was not clear about which violation was the basis for sanctions against the non-governmental organization.

Explanation of vote before the vote

55. The representative of Cuba stated that he would vote in favour of the proposal bearing in mind also that the Committee had acted efficiently on earlier occasions when a non-governmental organization had violated the procedures for consultative status and that it was necessary to take timely, firm measures against the organization. The representative of Egypt echoed that argument, emphasizing that the information provided by the delegation of Algeria was sufficient for the Committee to act within its limited mandate. He stressed that questioning the foundations of the Algerian court's decision would constitute an unacceptable infringement on the sovereignty of a Member State and a sign of disrespect for the independence of its judicial system.

56. By a roll-call vote of 18 in favour, with 1 abstention, the Committee decided to suspend the consultative status of the Arab Commission for Human Rights for a period of one year and to request the organization to submit a list of its members and associates by 1 April 2010, prior to consideration of the reinstatement of its status. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Angola, Burundi, China, Colombia, Cuba, Dominica, Egypt, Guinea, India, Israel, Pakistan, Peru, Qatar, Romania, Russian Federation, Sudan, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Abstaining:

United States of America.

General statements

57. The representative of the United Kingdom stated that she had voted in favour of the proposal on a case-by-case basis and expressed regret that the Committee did not have a mechanism in place to deal with such cases in a consistent manner. The representative of Israel noted that while he took any allegations of terrorism very seriously, the proven fact that the individual had spoken on behalf of a non-accredited non-governmental organization was sufficient grounds to support the

proposal, although his delegation would have preferred more time to study the issue and to receive more information. The representative of the United States reiterated that his delegation was a leader in the fight against terrorism and took all allegations of links to terrorism very seriously but could not take a decision without all the facts and without proper due process, expressing regret that the complaint had not been brought to the attention of the Committee earlier, which would have allowed for a more fair and balanced review.

VII. General voluntary trust fund in support of the United Nations Non-Governmental Organizations Informal Regional Network

58. At its 14th meeting, on 27 January 2009, the Committee heard a presentation on the United Nations Non-Governmental Organizations Informal Regional Network (UN-NGO-IRENE), in particular the establishment of a technology-based system that facilitated interactive exchange at the regional and global levels between the United Nations and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. The goal of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section web portal, entitled "UN-NGO-IRENE: best practices network", was to act as an engaging and interactive electronic forum, allowing non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council to share and discuss best practices and success stories. The web portal was divided into different networks, and the themes for each network were based on the themes of the high-level segments of the Council, as well as other topical subjects of importance in economic and social development. The objective of the web portal was to increase awareness of the work being carried out by non-governmental organizations around the world and to facilitate relationships between civil society and the United Nations. The Network also sponsored the publication of a 10-year review of the work of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations from 1998 to 2008 (see http://manizarrin.com/FinalBook.pdf.zip), which was presented to Committee members at its 2009 regular session.

59. Additional outreach activities included cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Egypt on a training course for non-governmental organizations, which focused on educating non-governmental organizations on how to share information and form effective partnerships within the non-governmental organization community, as well as with Governments, the United Nations system and the donor community. In the Russian Federation, a national workshop had been organized in December 2008 to launch the Network in Moscow, a prelude to the International Conference on Gender Mainstreaming and the Millennium Development Goals scheduled for 2009 under the co-sponsorship of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Russian-based organization "Russian Peace Foundation". The web portal for the Network is: http://www.un.org/esa/coordination/ngo/irene.

VIII. Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

60. The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations held its 2009 regular session from 19 to 28 January and on 2 February 2009. The Committee held 17 meetings (1st to 17th).

61. The session was opened by the Vice-Chairman of the 2008 sessions of the Committee, Alexandru Ciorobea (Romania), who served as temporary Chairman.

62. At the 1st meeting, on 19 January, the Chairman of the Committee, Hassan Hamid Hassan (Sudan), made an opening statement. Introductory statements were made by the Director of the Office for Economic and Social Council Support and Coordination of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Chief of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the Office for Economic and Social Council Support and Coordination.

B. Attendance

63. The session was attended by 19 members of the Committee. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations, observers for non-member States, representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and observers for non-governmental organizations also attended. The list of participants will be issued as document E/C.2/2009/INF/1.

64. At its 2009 regular session, the Committee heard 14 representatives of non-governmental organizations who were given the opportunity to respond to questions raised by the Committee. The additional information provided by the representatives facilitated the debate and the work of the Committee in taking its decisions.

C. Election of officers

65. At its 1st meeting, on 19 January, the Committee elected the following officers by acclamation.

Chairman:

Hassan Hamid Hassan (Sudan)

Vice-Chairmen:

Alexandru Ciorobea (Romania)
Luis A. Amorós Núñez (Cuba)
Ramis Şen (Turkey)
Suljuk Mustansar Tarar (Pakistan)

66. At the same meeting, it was decided that Suljuk Mustansar Tarar (Pakistan) would also serve as Rapporteur.

D. Agenda

67. At its 1st meeting, on 19 January, the Committee approved the provisional agenda for its 2009 session, as contained in document E/C.2/2009/1. The agenda reads as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification received from non-governmental organizations:
   (a) Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification deferred from previous sessions of the Committee;
   (b) New applications for consultative status and new requests for reclassification;
   (c) Applications of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council that have merged with non-governmental organizations without such consultative status.
4. Quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council:
   (a) Deferred quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council;
   (b) Review of quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council.
5. Strengthening of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat.
6. Review of the methods of work of the Committee: implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31, including the process of accreditation of representatives of non-governmental organizations, and Council decision 1995/304:
   (a) Process of accreditation of representatives of non-governmental organizations;
   (b) Consideration of issues in the agenda of the informal working group;
   (c) Other related matters.
7. Implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/46 and decision 2008/217.
8. Consideration of special reports.
9. General voluntary trust fund in support of the United Nations Non-Governmental Organizations Informal Regional Network.
10. Provisional agenda and documentation for the 2010 session of the Committee.
11. Adoption of the report of the Committee.

68. At the same meeting, the Committee approved its organization of work as contained in working paper No. 1.

E. Documentation

69. The list of documents before the Committee at its 2009 regular session is contained in the annex to the present document.

IX. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its 2009 regular session

70. At its 17th meeting, on 2 February 2009, the Committee adopted the draft report as contained in document E/C.2/2009/L.1 and authorized the Rapporteur to finalize the report, in consultation with the members of the Committee, as appropriate.

Annex I

List of documents

Document symbol	*Agenda item*	*Title or description*
E/C.2/2009/1	2	Provisional agenda and annotations
E/C.2/2009/CRP.1	3 (a)	Applications received from non-governmental organizations for consultative status with the Economic and Social Council deferred from previous sessions of the Committee held in the period from 1999 to 2008
E/C.2/2009/CRP.6	3 (a)	Requests for reclassification deferred from the sessions of previous years
E/C.2/2009/R.2 and Add.1-22	3 (b)	New applications received from non-governmental organizations for consultative status with the Economic and Social Council
E/C.2/2009/R.3	3 (b)	Requests for reclassification
E/C.2/2009/CRP.2	4 (a)	Compilation of quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council deferred from previous sessions of the Committee in 1999 and during the period from 2005 to 2008
E/C.2/2009/2 and Add.1-18	4 (b)	Quadrennial reports for the periods 2003-2006 and 2004-2007 submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council
E/C.2/2009/CRP.3	4 (b)	Implementation of measures to improve the quadrennial reporting procedures: compilation of quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council pursuant to Council resolution 2008/4
E/C.2/2009/CRP.4	4 (b)	List of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council whose submission of quadrennial reports is pending
E/C.2/2009/CRP.7	6 (b)	Summary of discussions of the Informal Working Group
E/C.2/2009/CRP.5	9	Report of the United Nations Non-Governmental Organizations Informal Regional Network
E/C.2/2009/L.1	11	Draft report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations

Annex II

Note verbale dated 14 January 2009 from the Permanent Mission of Algeria to the United Nations

The Permanent Mission of Algeria to the United Nations in New York presents it compliments to the members of the non-governmental organizations and to the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, and wishes to draw the attention of the Committee to an urgent matter concerning the Arab Commission on Human Rights, a non-governmental organization with special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

During the deliberations of the eighth session of the Human Rights Council, held on 10 June 2008, on the report of the working group on Algeria to the universal periodic review, the Arab Commission for Human Rights, instead of making a statement through Abdelwahab Hani, originally on the list of speakers, shifted representatives at the last minute to Rachid Mesli.

Mr. Mesli is associated with an armed terrorist group operating abroad, "GSPC/Al Quaida Bi Bilad El Maghreb Al Islami", listed on the list of the Security Council Sanctions Committee created by its resolution 1267 (1999), and an international warrant has been issued against him.

It is unacceptable that the consultative status given to the Arab Commission for Human Rights be diverted to allow individuals prosecuted on account of criminal charges to take the floor in a respected arena to attack and prosecute a State.

This is a clear transgression of Council resolution 1996/31, which stipulates the following, in paragraph 57 (a):

> "The consultative status of non-governmental organizations with the Economic and Social Council and the listing of those on the Roster shall be suspended up to three years or withdrawn in the following cases:
>
> "(a) If an organization, either directly or through its affiliates or representatives acting on its behalf, clearly abuses its status by engaging in a pattern of acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including unsubstantiated or politically motivated acts against Member States of the United Nations incompatible with those purposes and principles."

In addition to being given the floor by the Arab Commission for Human Rights, Mr. Mesli took the opportunity to promote another non-governmental organization, "Alkaraman", of which he is a founding member and which does not enjoy consultative status, associating it to the statement made on behalf of the Arab Commission for Human Rights without prior consent of the Human Rights Council as the established practice thus bypassing the consultative status required for such a statement with the complicity of the Arab Commission for Human Rights. A copy of the statement is attached.

While recalling the responsibility of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations for regular monitoring of the evolving relationship between the non-governmental organizations and the United Nations, Algeria would be grateful to the Members of the Committee and to the non-governmental organization Section to consider thoroughly this matter in accordance with Council resolution 1996/31 and request the secretariat of the Human Rights Council and the United Nations Office in Geneva to submit their investigation report to the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations for its reference.